

Forum: GA 1

Issue: "The question of preventing financing arms trade and enhancing international regulations regarding terrorist empowerment"

Background

In the world the threat of severe violence by terrorists is constantly present. It is an issue, which constantly develops. Therefore developing new methods to limit this are in dire need. To put an end to this by preventing financing arms trade and enhancing international regulations regarding terrorist empowerment, cooperation between member states is of utmost importance.

It is important to note that more emphasis should be put on international regulations. To accomplish it should be seen as a requirement to sign treaties relevant to the issue at hand to prevent violations of human rights and contributors escalating the issue to be held responsible for their actions. Such a treaty is the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), which should be strengthened and contain more technicalities about terrorist empowerment. As illicit trade of arms is a tremendous contributor to terrorism, according to United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), we should therefore consider encouraging non-signatory states signing the treaty and make the ATT more applicable for all Nations as it covers this issue well to a large extent many argue. The ATT was adopted in 2013 in the General Assembly, setting a standard regarding international arms transfers. It went into effect 2014 December 24th. The ATT ensures not only safer environment for individual countries but gives a collective security to all nations and organizations. This is due to the fact that it aims at preventing illicit arms trade, which usually results in instability in developing countries, conflicts, thereby leading to a halted economic- and social development and terrorist empowerment.

The past resolution A/RES/61/89 adopted by the General Assembly in 2006 December 6th aimed at creating an international standard for arms trade seeking to establish peace and security. Following this the creation of the ATT was discussed in resolutions and in 2013 the ATT was welcomed in the resolution A/RES/68/31.

The ATT is not the only body working at preventing terrorism and illicit arms trade. The Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) led by the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) is pledged to construct policies regarding the issue at hand. Some of the work that the CTC does is checks up

on countries commitment to the treaty and provides help if required. They do this by providing funds to establish programs and expertise. They also hold meeting to further cooperation between nations. The CTC advocate that there should be no financing of terrorists, stopping funds suspected promoting illicit handling of arms, network of shared information on terrorist acts committed or suspected to be committed, suppression of active and passive aid for terrorism under local jurisdiction and ensurance of punishment of perpetrators and lastly urges all nations to become signatories.

Terrorism

An issue of suppressing terrorism lies in the term itself. There is no single agreed upon universal definition. Every nation defines it differently, which leads to disagreements and a slower process of preventing financing arms trade and enhancing international regulations regarding terrorist empowerment. This is due to the fact that there is disagreement on who is considered a terrorist and who is not due the the ambiguity of the term terrorism. However, there is a definition that is widely recognized that a terrorist is someone who uses acts of terror in order to achieve his goals no matter what their intentions were or what they are standing for. Although this is once again very ambiguous. To create a single universally recognized definition of terrorism is an important step towards the question at hand.

Terrorism Financing & Poverty

The financing of terrorism provides funds and increases the activity of terrorism. The source of the funds do not only come from illegal sources such as drug trade, illicit trade, smuggling, kidnapping but also from personal donations, businesses profits, charity organizations. According to Division 103 of the Criminal Act 1995 it is a criminal offence to finance terrorist acts. To hinder such acts from taking place and preventing the financing of them the UN passed resolutions of the great caliber such as A/RES/54/109 to set up regulations. It is only natural that we reject the act of terrorism thereby the financing of it as well but it still takes place. Financing includes any form of money, tangible or intangible. Laws clearly state approaches to deal with people committing the act of financing terrorism but the problem lies in identifying them. One could for example monitor cash flow in banks but elaborate systems created by financers of terrorism could prevent the transactions to be found.

Faulty and poor regulation of arms- and ammunition trade gives rise to poverty, conflict, violations of the Human Rights Declaration. This can seen in Africa where approximately the annual value of development aid for the entire continent is lost due to armed conflict, which is estimated to be \$18 billion every year.

Outside investment is deterred due instability and violence. This is caused by authoritarian military regimes and financed terrorist organizations, which takes place in the first place due to the poor regulations in place. It is estimated that the African economy is reduced by 15% due to this. Corruption is also an contributor to this issue as this and bribery can cause a larger amount of transactional and hidden costs, representing a big portion of the contract value for companies. This gives rise to poverty in affected countries and still to this day some individuals “live on” less than \$1,25 per day, and terrorist empowerment escalates this issue making more people experience this hardship. Something that tackles this issue is the new sustainable development goals of 2030, which states that extreme poverty should be eradicated by then.

Coalitions Combatting Terrorism

Different views based on geographical point:

African Coalition

In Africa the issue of terrorism and its consequences are horrid as it has suffered from major terrorist attacks thereby its embroilment is palpable. The role of the African Union in solving this issue is of vast importance but it is also important to note the importance of cooperation between the states in Africa.

East Asia and Pacific Cooperation

The effort made in this bloc is noticeable as measures have been taken by many countries. Malaysia showed its determination through its political will, at the pinnacle of its government oppose the menacing dangers of terrorism. China’s experience with terrorist attacks has led to increased levels of attention to the threat of terrorism and ways to end it. China held bilateral dialogues on counter-terrorism in 2014. Furthermore Australia is considered the regional leader in the combatting of terrorism.

Western Powers

This coalition is considered to be US led and works at ultimately to put an end to the terrorism, mainly Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) in Iraq and Syria as the situation continues to be exacerbated.

Countries included in this coalition are mainly part of the European Union and their position has been made clear, which is to cooperate as an allied front to combat terrorism.

Sources & useful links

<https://www.un.org/disarmament/convarms/ArmsTrade/>

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<https://www.oxfam.org/en/campaigns/why-we-need-global-arms-trade-treaty>

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